27th August 1926]

(b) what would be the approximate number of coolies who are now working; and

(c) if no Special officer was appointed, the reason for not appointing such an officer?

A.—(a) Yes. A Health Officer has been appointed to look after the coolies so far as sanitation is concerned. The Executive Engineer in charge of Construction attends to the house-accommodation, wages, etc., of the coolies.

(b) About 800.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know how many of the 800 coolies employed in the Mettur Project belong to the depressed classes?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I want to know why a Special officer from the Labour department was not deputed to look after these 800 coolies, since the Health Officer and the Executive Engineer in charge have already got too many activities to do?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order, that is a separate question."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether Government are at least contemplating to appoint a special officer to look after those coolies?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order, that is a suggestion for action."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether any school has been opened there?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is a separate question."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Representation of the barber's community in local boards and municipalities.

*2365 Q.—Mr. B. OBALESAPPA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps on the observation made by me in my speech on the 5th March 1925 during general discussion on the budget, regarding the representation of the barber's community by nomination to every local board and municipality; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the names of persons of that community that were nominated since 1st April 1925?

A.—(a) & (b) The claims of members of the barber community are considered with the claims of other communities when suitable persons are available for appointment. M.R.Ry. M. P. Sornam Pandithar was recently nominated as a member of the Palamcottah Municipal Council.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I know whether the Adi-Dravidas and other depressed classes will be deprived of the seat meant for them whenever a member of the barber community or washerman community would get that seat?"

[27th August 1926

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It does not follow, Sir, from the answer given, that wherever these members are appointed the Adi-Dravida community will be deprived of their seats."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether they represent only the backward communities? I mean the barbers and washermen, as apart from the depressed classes."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Wherever a particular community is considered to be more important than another, a member is nominated from that community."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether they take the population of the community into consideration when they make such nominations to local boards?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" All those things are taken into consideration before nominations are made."

Appointment of one Madon to Kayalpatnam Union Board.

* 2366 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : With reference to question No. 521, answered before the meeting of 28th October 1925 will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Adi-Dravida by name Madon of Kayalpatnam was already appointed as a member to represent the depressed classes to the Kayalpatnam Union Board, Tinnevelly district, if not, why not?

A.—No. The Government understand that there has been no vacancy among the nominated members of the Kayalpatnam Union Board since they advised the appointment of an Adi-Dravida.

Nominations to the South Kanara District Board.

* 2367 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement of the names of Indian Christians on the District Boards and Taluk Boards of South Kanara, Malabar, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Salem districts as they stood *on* 1st *April* 1926 showing their religion and sect—Catholic, Protestant or Syrian Christian; and

(*b*) to state (i) whether the Indian Christian Civic League of South Kanara recommended in 1925–26 the name of a Protestant as well as a Catholic for a likely vacancy of a seat of an Indian Christian and (ii) why two Roman Catholics were nominated by Government while there was already a Catholic elected member on the Board in preference to the Protestant candidate?

A.—(*a*) A statement [a] furnishing the information required is placed on the table.

(*b*) (i) No such recommendation is traceable.

(ii) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (*d*) of question No. 1934.

---

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 297–298 infra.